

Date: 12/08/04
JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10246-10027
RECORD SERIES : JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 80T01357A

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 53217 Date:
06-21-2017

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

AGENCY ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM : WITHHELD
TO : MEMO FOR RECORD
TITLE : PHOTO OPERATION TARGETED AGAINST THE CUBAN CONSULATE
DATE : 01/01/1900
PAGES : 8

SUBJECTS : CUBA
PULSE CAMERA

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER
CLASSIFICATION : SECRET
RESTRICTIONS : 1A 1B
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED IN PART PUBLIC - RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/13/93
COMMENTS : JFK31 : F6 : 1993.10.13.13:34:20:840022 : DRAFT MEMO

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10246-10027

~~Draft~~ 1

Memo for Record

Subject: LIONION Photo Operation targeted against the Cuban Consulate

From: RSG

SUMMARY

Available records show that the VLS-2, an automatic triggering device, ^{camera} ~~in process of~~ was being installed at the LIONION basehouse on 27 Sept. 63. This device was to be used with the K-100 16mm movie camera or the Robot Star 35mm ~~These systems were~~ still camera. It was aimed at the gate of the Cuban Consulate. The first test pictures were sent to Headquarters at attachments to HMMA-22433 on 7 November 1963. One of the attachments, (A), shows the VLS-2 coverage of the Consulate gate. Obvious in this photo is a sign indicating the hours of the Consulate (for visas). The hours are 10-2, Monday through Friday. ~~The date this test photo was taken is unknown.~~ A later monthly report for 1-31 December 1963, (HMMA-22726), discusses the installation of a SEQUENCE camera on 17 December 1963 with hours of operation against the Consulate of 0900 to 1400, ~~(office hours of the Consulate)~~. Subsequent monthly reports confirm that the SEQUENCE camera was indeed the Pulse Camera. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The record, then, shows:

- A. The Pulse Camera was installed, for the first time, on 17 December 1963.
- B. No coverage of the Consulate existed prior to 27 Sept. 1963 when the VLS-2 and K-100 or Robot Star systems ~~were being~~ installed during the morning, ~~inexpedition~~

DISCUSSION

HSCA Researchers, Dan Hardway and Ed Lopez, reviewed Agency files on the following dates:

26 May 1978
 22 June 1978
 5 July 1978
 20 July 1978
 21 July 1978

This files contain materials cited in the SUMMARY, including sample photos of the Consulate gate using the K-100 and Robot Starr systems triggered by the VLS-2, ~~taken during a test period.~~ These systems are readily identifiable by nature of the prints. The K-100 is 16mm format and is so marked on the reverse side of the print (although misidentified as Attachement A to HMMA-22433 when it should have been Attachment B). The Robot Star is 35 mm format. ~~None of these prints,~~ None of these prints, which were sent to Headquarters as test results on 7 November 1963, has the distinctive mark of the Pulse Camera in the lower left corner. The Pulse Camera recorded a time/date image in the lower left corner from an internal Accutron movement. This can be seen in a sample picture sent to Headquarters on 22 June 1965[†] (HMMA-26414), entitled Details of LIONION Pulse Camera Operation. This report confirms, too, that the Pulse Camera did not begin operation until "mid-December 1963."

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

INFERENCES

concludes from Duran testimony that

The Warren Commission record ~~assumes~~ Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate sometime after ^{↑ upon} arriving in Mexico City on the morning of 27 September 1963. That same morning, across the street at LIERODE basehouse, the new trigger device and K-100/Robot Star systems were in process of being installed. If the installation were to have gone smoothly, the systems may have been tested against the

(3)

supposed

target at the very moment when Oswald ~~supposed~~ is assumed to have appeared. However, the record of that morning's efforts shows that the K-100 had a malfunctioning part which had to be re-machined. Since the Consulate closed at 1400, there would have been few "targets" available even for test purposes! Oswald is confirmed to have visited the Consulate between 1600 and 1630. Since he appeared after normal hours of the photo operation, which terminated at the published Consulate closing time of 1400, the likelihood of having a photo of him is remote. Even if such coverage were to have occurred during morning testing and when Oswald was only assumed to have been at the Consulate, the record does not show any ~~supposed~~ That visit

Assuming that LIONION-1 began work on Monday morning, 30 September 1963 at normal hours and started to operate the new K-100 and Robot Star systems against the Consulate gate for test purposes as he was instructed to do (HMMA-22307), the test photos sent to Headquarters may have been the result. None of these individuals appears to be Oswald. The Warren Commission concludes, too, that Oswald only visited the Consulate on 27 and 28 September. 28 September is a Saturday. The Consulate is closed (according ~~the~~ to the posted sign). The LIONION ~~operations only~~ basehouse only operated Mondays through Friday!

OKD 5/5/63
2/5/63

(3)

It is possible that this installation, begun in the morning, may have taken well into the afternoon to complete because (1) this was a new installation in a new room of the basehouse ^{and} (2) the technicians experienced problems with the equipment. The ultimate set-up would have been tested ^{on the target} when it was complete. But the Consulate officially closed at 1400 hours, after which there would have been few, if any, targets (at the gate) for test purposes! It may have been likely, then, that the installation, when completed, was not tested against actual (and available) targets until the opening of business, Monday morning, 30 September. Oswald is not known to have visited the Consulate Saturday after 28 September. ~~No photo coverage was~~ The LIAISON photo site did not operate on Saturdays.

~~Silva Duran's testimony indicates that Oswald visited the Consulate twice on Friday, 27 September: in the morning when she directed him to the Soviet Consulate; in the afternoon (4 pm) when she telephoned the Soviet Consulate and when the Cuban Counsel, Azque argued with Oswald. The "morning visit," which was Oswald's first contact with the Cuban Consulate would likely have occurred during official office hours, 10-2. This is strengthened by the fact the he was again at the Consulate, after business hours, at 4 pm. If he had not visited earlier during normal business hours, he could have been rebuffed at the 4 pm visit with the suggestion that he come during business hours. He was not rebuffed....from which I suggest that he therefore visited the Consulate before 2 pm. and, mostly likely, during the very hours that the technicians were in process of setting up the new installation in LENOION across the street.~~

I conclude that the ~~xx~~ probability of having taken a photo of Oswald during his visit(s) to the Cuban Consulate on 27 Sept. 1963 is remote.

(4)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The files reveal the following supplemental information:

- A. [LITAMIL 7, LITAMIL 9] penetrations of the Cuban Embassy, were aware of and assisted in the production of LIONION. HSCA researchers have reviewed this item.
had access to
- B. LIONION I and 2 were terminated 1/11/72. The termination report assumed that they were either doubled or their operation was being monitored.
HSCA researchers have had access to this item.
- C. LIONION 1 and 2 intended to resettle in Madrid on 1 Sept. 72.
HSCA researchers have had access to this item.
- D. 70 volumes (5 packages) of LIONION production from late 61 through December 1968 were sent to Record Center, 12 Aug. 69 to Headquarters with a recommendation that they be forwarded to Records Center for retention of 10 years from date of information. (thus, the earlier production may have been destroyed!)
This item is HMMA-37684. Unknown if HSCA has seen.
- E. Photos of Pulse Camera in operating position sent to Headquarters as Enclosure 3, HMMA-22881, 13 Feb. 64. Location of Enclosure or HMMA-22881 unknown to undersigned.
Unknown if HSCA has seen.
- F. Photos taken using Pulse Camera were sent to Headquarters as HMMA-22836, 31 Jan. 64. Location of photos unknown to undersigned.
Unknown if HSCA has seen.
- G. Pulse Camera removed for reconditioning during May 64.
- H. All equipment removed from LIONION basehouse on 26-27 Sept. 64 for 6-8 weeks as precaution after release of Warren Commission Report.
- I. LIONION basehouse partially reactivated, 25 Nov. 64 with only coverage of the Embassy gate....Pulse Camera to be installed in near future.

Dej

Various Items Re; LIONIONP Project

<u>Item</u>	<u>Seen By/When</u>
1. LIONION Project initiation, 16 Feb. 1965.	DH 5/26, 7/5, 7/21
"Both I and II know they are working for AIS. [LITAMIL-7 and LITAMIL-9], who are penetrations of the Cuban Embassy, are aware of this activity as they are used to help identify individuals photographed."	
2. LIONION was originally a walkin agent in Havana. "This in itsel& is enough to make him suspect." AM/QUAKE and AM/STAFF	L-1, L-2 Termination HMMA-41490 1/11/72
"We are further assuming that they (XXXXXX) then either doubled him (L-1) or (L-2) or that they are successfully monitoring the op. thru a combination of physical and audio surveillance." (L-1, L-2) "They intend to depart Mexico for Madrid on 1 Sept. 72" (to resettle)	DH 5/26, 7/5, 7/21
3. Details of LIONION Pulse Camera Operation	HMMA-26414 22 June 65
" This dispatch is intended to familiarize HDQTRS with the details of the Pulse Camera operation in Mexico City, which was mounted in December 63 and is targeted against in the Cuban Embassy and Consulate.	ass in 2.
" The technician arrived with this particular piece of equipment (Pulse Camera) during mid-December 63, and proceeded to install and test it at the LIONION-I basehouse."	
"The Pulse Camera is in operation 6 hours per day, 5 days each week.."	
"Attached are samples of photographic coverage from the Pulse Camera..." (Note the unique time/date stamp in the lower left corner of the Pulse Camera frame..this only comes from that camera!)	

4. Use of the VLS-2 Trigger Device at the LIERODE Basehouse 7 Nov. 63

HMMA-22433 Seen by DH and EL 6/22

C. "The VLS-2 Trigger Device, installed at the LIERODE basehouse to cover the Consulate entrance, is performing well with little false triggering."

"See Enclosure A for the VLS-2 area of coverage"

"L-22 (LIONION-I) used the K-100 with a 152mm lens for one day, turning in 10 feet of 16mm film. (See Enclosure B for the results of this testing.)"

NOTE: This could have occurred on the Monday after the eqpt was installed. i.e. 30 Sept. 63. Thus, the coverage for that day (which can be found) only amounts to this one test picture. It is definitely the K-100, as distinguished from the Pulse Camera because it is 16 mm.

"The Robot Star (35mm)...is..now being used with the VLS-2 on this project. (See Enclusure C for this coverage)

5. Operational Monthly Report - 1-30 Sept. 63 HMMA-22307 18 Oct. 63

B. "On the morning of 27 Sept. 63, a technician installed the VLS-2 Trigger Device at the

LIERODE basehouse".

"L-22 (LIONION-I) was requested to test the Robot Star camera for 4 days and the K-100 for another 4 days. When satisfactory results of this testing become available to the Station, they will be forwarded to OTS/Photo Ops Branch for examination."

Production Figures on Jobs Processed.

No 16mm film was processed as "production" for period of this report.

6. Operational Monthly Report 1-31 Dec. 63 HMMA-22726 1/16/64

D "On the morning of 17 Dec. 63 the technician met L-22 (LIONION) at the LIERODE basehouse to install the 35 mm SEQUENCE camera and the VLS-2 trigger device.....As of this reporting, the SEQUENCE camera is using approximately 100 feet of film between 0900 and 1400 hours (office hours of the Consulate)."

7. LIONION Production HMMA - 37684 12 Aug. 69 File 50-6-122/4
Box #1: 61-Dec. 63

✓ "Forwarded for Headquarters retention are 70 volumes (5 packages) of the photographic take of LIONION from the late 1961 through December 1968.....it is requested that Headquarters retire these volumes to the Records Center.....Station suggests that a retention period of 10 years from the date of information may be desirable."

8. Operational Monthly Report 1-31 Jan. 64 HMMA-22881 13 Feb. 64

E "Forwarded as Enclosure 3 are photos showing....the Pulse camera in operating position.....See HMMA-22836 dated 31 Jan. 64 for photos taken using the Pulse Camera."

9. Operational Monthly Report 1-31 May 64 HMMA-23629 11 June 64

"the Pulse Camera at the LIERODE basehouse was removed for reconditioning and a new Pulse Camera installed....the older camera was packed to Hdrtrs per HMMW-12500."

9. Operational Monthly Report 1-30 Sept. 64 HMMA-24518 15 Oct. 64

"...on 26 and 27 Sept. the LIONION basehouse was evacuated and all equipment and supplies were removed" (because of the Warren Commission report.....presumably, the basehouse was reoccupied after 6-8 weeks).

10. Operational Monthly Report HMMA-24922 10 Dec. 64 for 1-30 Nov. 64

"The LIONION basehouse was partially reactivated on 25 Nov....the Station is receiving daily coverage of all activity around the gate of the Embassy.....it is anticipated that the pulse camera will be installed in the near future."